



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY NOTES*
LEE VINING, FERC PROJECT NO. 1388
PME-1 AND OPERATIONS MODEL TWG MEETING
JUNE 24, 2026 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**These meeting notes are documentation of general discussions from the meeting held on the above-noted date and focus on stakeholder questions and comments. These notes are not a verbatim account of proceedings and do not represent any final decisions or official documentation for the project or participating agencies.*

AGENDA

- Continue review of State Water Board's questions on operations model
- Review USFS updates to PME-1 Table 1
- Discuss considerations and goals of PME-1

ATTENDEES

Relicensing Team Members

Matthew Woodhall, SCE
Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt
Bret Hoffman, Kleinschmidt
Carissa Shoemaker, Kleinschmidt

Technical Working Group Members & Interested Parties

Tristan Leong, US Forest Service (USFS)
Adam Cohen, State Water Board
Bryan Muro, State Water Board
Graham Meese, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Ashley Cooper, CDFW
Beth Lawson, CDFW
Robbie Di Paolo, Mono Lake Committee
Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection

OPERATIONS MODEL AND PME-1 DISCUSSION

- Considerations / goals of the PME-1 measure presented by Agencies on 6/17/2024:
 - Higher flows in spring to reflect natural hydrograph (captured in 6/17 approach)
 - Follows format of upstream hydrology that changes according to water year type and seasonal availability. (Proportionally more water during wet, less in dry-captured in 6/17 approach)
 - Provides a minimum flow that's directly measurable as compared to "or natural inflow" modeling calculation that is difficult in practice to quantify and could require averaging etc; "sized/responsive" to the hydrology of the system as compared to previous MIF (captured in 6/17 approach)
 - Provides an instantaneous minimum flow, some buffering capacity from peak discharges, and associated aquatic habitat (captured in 6/17 approach)
 - Appears (generally) to fit within existing operational framework and desired flexibility; most of the time the Project is already exceeding said minimum values (confirmed on this call)
- In addition to the revised PME-1 tables, CDFW would like to avoid "pulse" flows in late fall to prevent scouring and ensure habitat availability (6/17/2026 - commentary from CDFW)
 - Discussion of Article 405, with potential revisions
- Clarification to footnote D: The sum the average of Tioga and Saddlebag is a 24-hour average of the previous day, from midnight to midnight. There is some lag time before the flows get to Ellery Lake.
- Tristan has a modified PME-1 table with footnotes adjusted for clarity.
- Adam and Bret discussed operations model modes and which one to use.
 - Mode 2 spills in normal water years. Bret made Mode 3 to more closely represent what has happened in the past. Mode 4 is the best, recommend using it because it avoids spill.
 - Adam explained that because operations only allows spill very rarely, he is not using Mode 4 because ops avoids spilling, so he is using the mode that replicates that (Mode 2).
 - There shouldn't be any pulse flows in Mode 4, just an increase in release setting.
- Discussion on when/how operators change the valve settings, depends on accessibility, compliance with Article 405, and the LADWP Sales Agreement water quantity needs.
- Potential revisions Article 405
 - CDFW expressed concerns about big pulse flows at the end of September potentially impacting fish spawning. Salmonid spawning was observed in Lee Vining Creek in mid-September during the surveys: redds were observed above Poole Powerhouse and males were exhibiting mating behavior. Shifting the pulse earlier would be protective of fish (early September or end of August). Brown trout spawning goes from September to December.
 - Would a change of the averaging period eliminate potential impacts to fish spawning?

- Operations may be able to open the valves for winter in two steps rather than one, reducing the size of the pulse.
- Article 405 is most applicable to Saddlebag. Targets for Tioga may be different from Saddlebag, Tioga has lake level restrictions and Saddlebag does not.
- Need to run ideas by operations: Article 405 date ranges, number of visits to set valves for winter.
- Questions and concerns raised regarding the spike in flows shown in late August 2024 for Saddlebag. SCE assumes the spike is to get water out of the lake quickly but operations isn't available to confirm right now.

SCHEDULE AND ACTION ITEMS

- Seth/Ops is out this week, relicensing team will discuss the date change ideas with Seth next week and get back to the group.





Below Poole Powerhouse ^f	Wet	25 ^{a, e}	Instantaneous June 1 ^c – July 31
		18	Instantaneous Aug 1 – September 30
		*The sum of the measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams ^{a, e}	Instantaneous Oct 1-May 31
	Normal	20 ^{a, e}	Instantaneous June 1 ^c – July 31
		10	Instantaneous Aug 1 – September 30
		*The sum of the measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams ^{a, e}	Instantaneous Oct 1-May 31
Dry	Dry	10 ^{a, e}	Instantaneous June 1 ^c – July 31
		* The sum of the measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams ^{a, e}	Instantaneous Aug 1 – September 30